

REMARKS

This responds to the first Office Action. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-23,25 and 26 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 15, 20, 22 and 23 are the independent claims.

Allowable Claims

Claims 3-10, 20-22 and 25 were deemed allowable by the Examiner.

Claim 3 has been written in independent form and claims 3-10 are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 20 has been written in independent form and claims 20 and 21 are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 22 has been written in independent form and is submitted to be in condition for allowance along with new dependent claim 26.

Regarding allowable claim 25, claim 23 has been amended to recite some aspects dependent claim 25, specifically:

wherein at least one of said base components comprises a module coupling device that engages and retains an associated module mounted to said backplane in one of said at least one mounting locations when the coupling device is arranged in a locked configuration, said coupling device manually movable to an unlocked configuration for releasing the associated module.

As such, claim 23 is submitted to be in condition for allowance, along with dependent claim 25 (claim 24 has been canceled).

Rejected Claims

Independent Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to define the modular electrical device as comprising, in addition to the other features:

a coupling device connected to said backplane and located in said at least one mounting location, said coupling device adapted to releasably secure said at least one module to said backplane,

wherein said coupling device comprises a lock member movable between a first position where it retains the at least one module mounted to said backplane and a second position where it releases the at least one module mounted to said backplane.

The *Lieb et al.* document (*Lieb*) and/or the other documents of record do not disclose or fairly suggest the modular electrical device of claim 1, with all of the recited limitations, including a coupling device with a movable lock member for retaining a module. As such, claim 1 and dependent claims 2 and 11-14 and 16-19 are respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance.

New Independent Claim 15

Claim 15 has been written in independent form. Claim 15 is directed to a structure wherein the first and second female socket connectors each comprise a wall defining a plurality of flow passages extending therethrough, and wherein the polymeric material from which the first and second seals are molded extends into the flow passages and through the wall so that the first and second seals are mechanically anchored to the flow passages of the first and second female socket connectors, respectively. The Examiner rejected claim 15 based upon *Lieb*. It is noted, however, that *Lieb* relies solely on O-ring seals 39 located in grooves 38 (see Fig. 3a). The seals 39 are simply seated in the grooves 38 and *there is no portion of the seal material that extends through passages etc. to anchor the seal as recited in claim 15.*

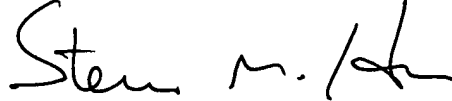
Regarding claim 15, the Examiner has stated that *Lieb* discloses flow passages at 36 in Figs. 3b,3c. It is respectfully noted that elements 36 of *Lieb* are electrical connectors (see col. 6, lines 20,21) and these do not interact with the seal 39. No portion of the seal material extends into the areas 36.

In addition, it is noted that *Lieb* does not disclose installation of the seals 39 *in the female sockets 19*-- the seals 39 are located on the *male* connector portion 37.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that this application meets all statutory requirements.
A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven M. Haas", written over a horizontal line.

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